

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/536,347

Examiner

Luz L. Alejandro

Applicant(s)

BAILEY, ANDREW D.

Art Unit

1763

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communication filed on 12/12/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2,5-7,9-15,27,28,30-32 and 34-36.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 0206
- ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other


LUZ ALEJANDRO-MULERO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Lee on 2/3/06.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

- A) In claim 2-line 4, after "chamber", -- and a plasma region -- has been added.
- B) In claim 2-line 12, after "around", -- the wall -- has been added.
- C) In claim 30-line 1, before "process", -- shape of the -- has been added.
- D) In claim 30-line 2 "shape" has been deleted.
- E) In claim 30-line 3 "shape" (first occurrence) has been deleted and replaced with -- shaped process chamber, the process chamber --.
- F) In claim 30-line 3, after "holder", -- at -- has been added.
- G) In claim 30-line 3, "shape" (second occurrence) has been deleted and replaced with -- shaped process chamber --.
- H) In claim 30-line 4, "shape" has been deleted and replaced with -- shaped process chamber --.

- I) In claim 30-line 5, "shape" has been deleted and replaced with -- shaped process chamber --.
- J) In claim 31-line 2, "shape" has been deleted and replaced with -- shaped process chamber --.
- K) In claim 31-line 3, "shape" has been deleted and replaced with -- shaped process chamber --.
- L) In claim 32-line 2, "shape" has been deleted and replaced with -- shaped process chamber --.
- M) Claim 33 has been cancelled.
- N) In claim 36-line 2, "ends" has been changed to -- end --.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art, either singly or in combination, fails to anticipate or render obvious, a plasma processing apparatus comprising the claimed plasma confinement arrangement that comprises a magnetic array having a plurality of magnetic elements that are disposed within the process chamber, the plurality of magnetic elements being configured to produce a magnetic field, wherein the plurality of magnetic elements are disposed around the wall of the process chamber and extend along a plasma region, and wherein the magnetic elements are within the plasma region, wherein the wall surrounds the magnetic elements and the plasma region so that plasma is able to form plasma deposition on the wall, and wherein the magnetic field produced by the magnetic elements reduces plasma deposition on the wall, wherein each of the plurality of magnetic elements extend substantially from a

first end of the process chamber to a chuck, wherein the magnetic elements are spaced apart from the wall, so that the gas provided by the gas source is able to surround the magnetic elements and go into spaces between the wall and the magnetic elements, wherein the magnetic field has an azimuthally symmetric radial gradient. Additionally, note that applicant's arguments and/or statements in both the remarks filed on 12/12/05 and in the declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 filed on Dec. 17, 2004, presents reasons why the instant claims are patentable over the prior art of record.

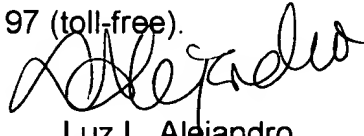
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Luz L. Alejandro whose telephone number is 571-272-1430. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 7:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Parviz Hassanzadeh can be reached on 571-272-1435. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Luz L. Alejandro
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1763

February 3, 2006